

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Schools,

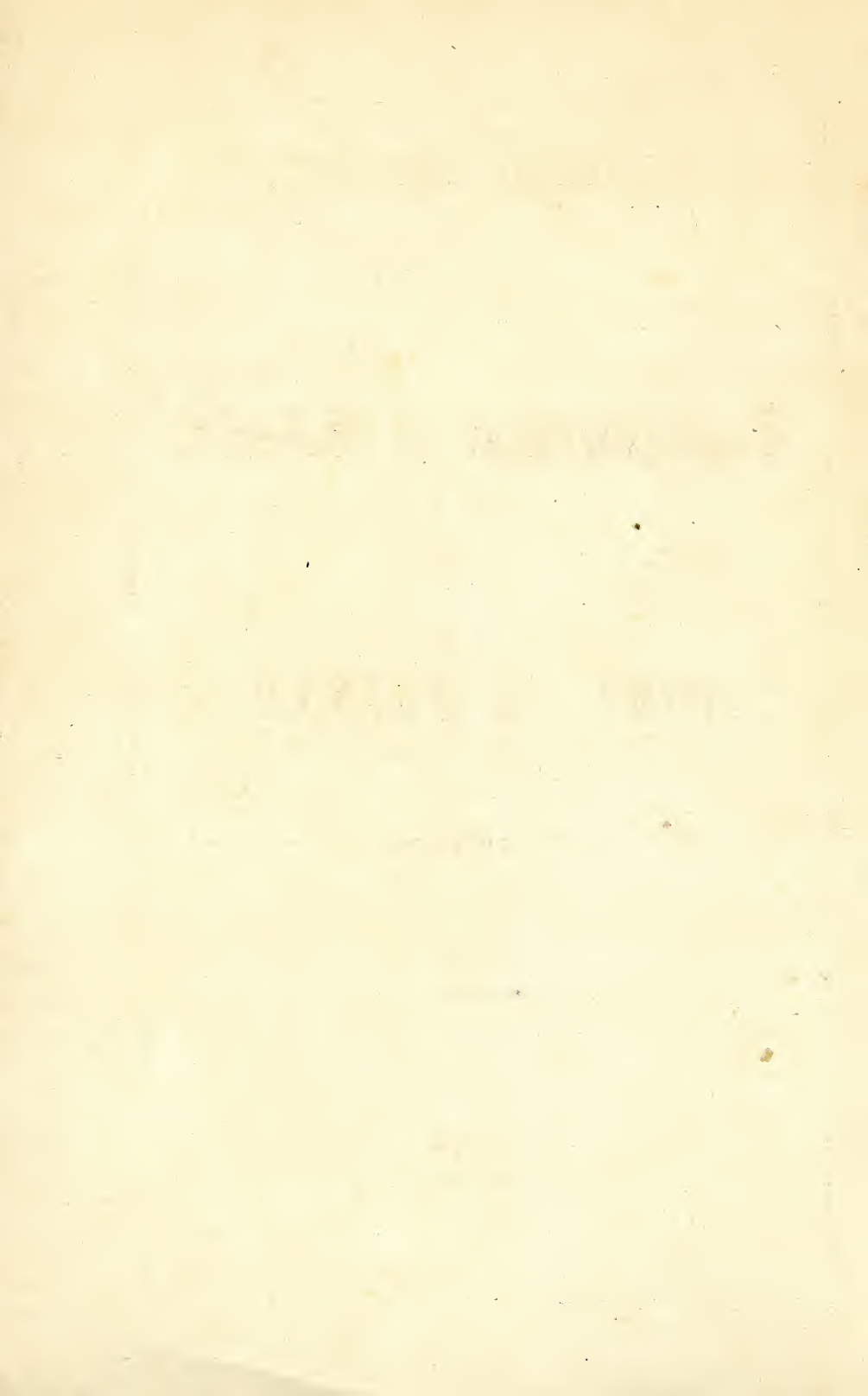
OF THE

TOWN OF PALMER.

For the Year Ending March 16, 1861.



PALMER:
FISK & GOFF, PRINTERS:
1861.



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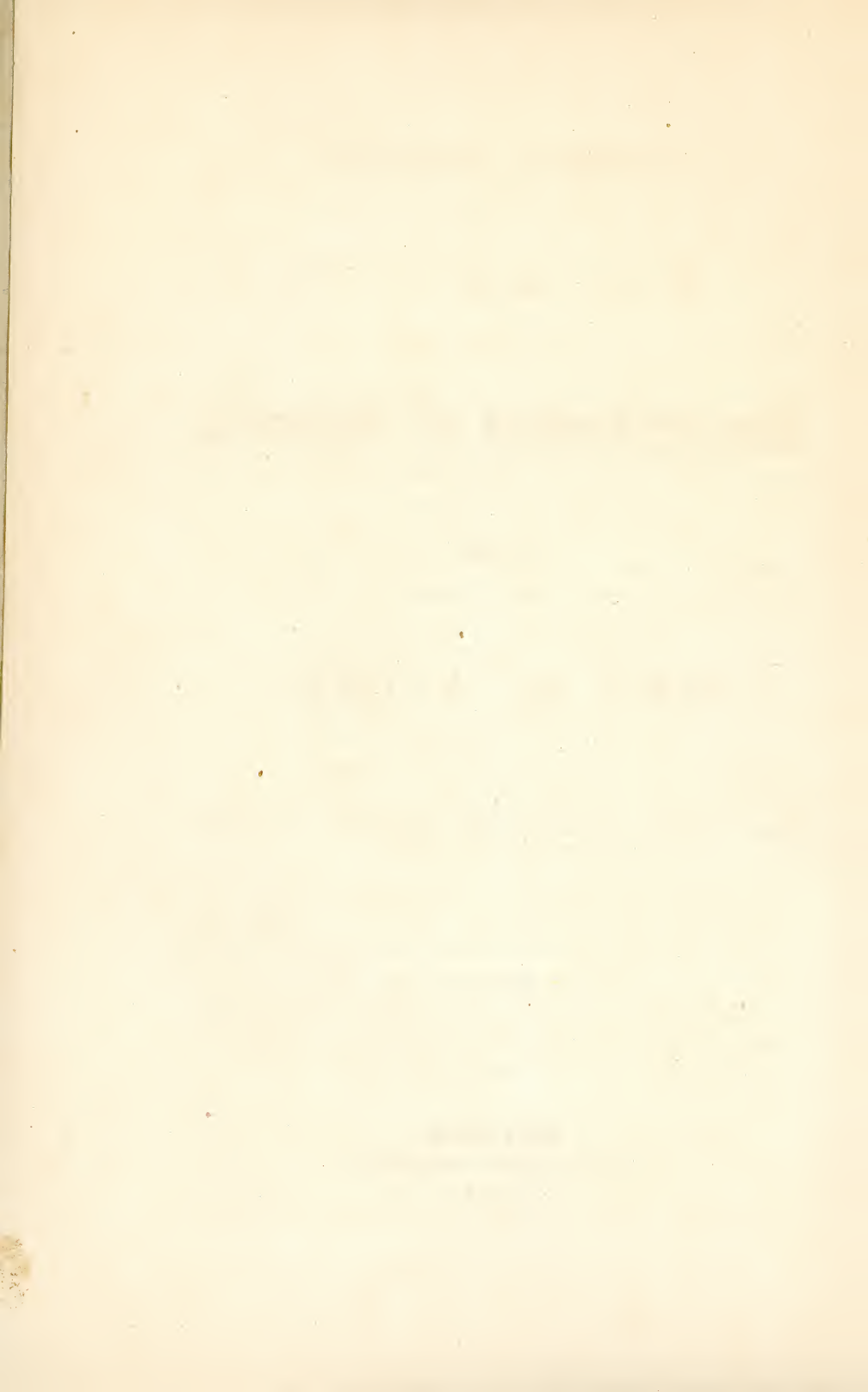
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SCHOOL REPORT.

THE School Committee of the town of Palmer in accordance with the Laws of the Commonwealth, requiring a detailed report of the condition of the public schools in said town, submit their Annual Report.

At a preliminary meeting of the Committee, held March 27th, A. D. 1860, voted that the several school districts be assigned for supervision as follows, viz:

ELIAS TURNER,	Nos. 1 and 3.
GAMALIEL COLLINS,	" 11 and 12.
E. B. GATES,	" 5 and 13.
G. W. RANDELL,	" 2 and 10.
WILSON BRAINARD,	" 4, 9 and 7.
R. B. CASWELL,	" 6 and 8.

Graded Schools at Nos. 3 and 13, by the whole Board.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

SUMMER TERM of sixteen weeks, taught by Miss Martha Sedgwick with good success. She is an experienced teacher, having acquired a very good reputation as such. Her method of teaching was prompt, decided and independent, her government very decided; her school commenced better than it closed, although there was a very commendable progress made by the school under her instruction.

WINTER TERM of twelve weeks, taught by Joseph W. Graves, this being his second school. At the commencement he exercised much energy and anxiety for the improvement of his scholars, and his efforts were crowned

with very good success; but owing to the multiplied cares resting upon the teacher, or some other cause, the interest of his scholars in their studies very much abated, and his influence was not regarded as it ought to have been, yet the school under his instruction made very fair improvement.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Miss Loraine Atwood of Palmer, Teacher,—The First Division Term of twelve weeks, commencing May 7th, and ending July 31st, A. D. 1860. Miss Atwood is a very successful teacher. She had previously acquired a good reputation as such, which was fully sustained during this term. The scholars made very good proficiency, the examination was full of interest to the parents and Committee.

Also the SECOND TERM by the same teacher, who commenced September 10th, and ended October 19th. This term was one of equal success.

Second Division, taught by Miss Julia E. Randell. Term, twelve weeks, commencing May 7th, and ending July 31st. This teacher has labored faithfully, and the manner in which she labored with her scholars was very commendable and satisfactory to the Committee. The scholars advanced rapidly.

Second term by the same teacher, commencing September 10th, and ending October 19th. This term was one of equal interest and success, the teacher having secured the confidence and co-operation of the scholars and parents.

The THIRD WINTER TERM taught by same teacher, commencing December 24th, and ending March 1st. This term was one of marked success, which was pleasing to the Committee. This school was very large in numbers, averaging about sixty scholars, though quite small, yet it was well governed and thoroughly disciplined. At the examination it was apparent that the school had been thorough and correctly instructed.

District No. 2, First Department, WINTER TERM, taught by Mr. Alpheus Winter of Belchertown. Commencing December 24th, and ending March 1st. This teacher had previously acquired a good reputation which was fully sustained during this term. This school is not characterized by that degree of quiet and order amongst the scholars which is at all times a pleasing feature in visiting a school. It was a matter of serious regret on the part of the Committee that the older and larger class of scholars did not more appreciate the advantages of this school, situated as it was, in the best school-room in town. However, the examination was creditable to the teacher and scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

First Department, term of twelve weeks by Annie E. Heath, of Worcester, who succeeded in keeping a good school.

SUMMER and FALL TERMS of twelve weeks each, taught by Miss Nelly Smith, who possessed experience, and peculiar tact in imparting instruction. Under her mild and decided mode of government the improvement of her scholars was very satisfactory.

WINTER TERM of twelve weeks taught by Miss Mary E. Squires, whose school was kept in perfect order. The lessons were good and promptly recited. The Committee take pleasure in recommending her as an excellent teacher.

Second Department, SUMMER and FALL TERMS of twelve weeks each, taught by Miss Eliza Tupper, whose school was made up mostly of small scholars. Yet their progress was rapid and thorough, and her labors were highly appreciated by the District and Committee.

WINTER TERM, Second Department, taught by Jerane M. Fenton, of Belchertown, whose school was conducted with propriety and success. Her government was mild and affectionate, and her success good.

DISTRICT NO 4.

Term of fourteen weeks, taught by M. Minerva Hastings. Miss Hastings' efforts being warmly seconded by the parents of the district, her success was fully equal to their expectations. The examination was attended by most of the parents of the district. After the closing exercises of the school-room were over, the scholars with their parents and friends, retired to a beautiful grove above their school-house, where there were tables loaded with a rare profusion of all that delights and strengthens the inner man. The exercises consisted of declamations by the scholars and speeches from the parents and friends that were present. Such meetings and tokens of approval of parents are green spots in the paths of teachers, and they also serve to bind in friendly communion the members of our school districts. May such meetings and friendly greetings be of often occurrence.

WINTER TERM of twelve weeks, taught by Miss Lucy A. Hastings, who succeeded in sustaining and adding to the interest of the school.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

SUMMER TERM, Miss Alvira R. Clark, Teacher. The whole number of scholars was eighteen, with an average attendance of fifteen. The school appeared well during the term, and the closing examination showed a very commendable progress in the studies pursued.

WINTER TERM, Miss Adelaide V. Hitchcock, Teacher. Whole number of scholars during the term was nineteen, with an average of sixteen. The school prospered well under the instruction of Miss H. Her discipline was mild but effective. The examination was good, and gave satisfaction to the many present. This district now has a good school-house, pleasantly located, and supplied with Mitchell's outline maps.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

SUMMER TERM of fourteen weeks, taught by Miss Louisa S. Cook of Palmer. Miss Cook may be classed amongst our teachers possessing traits of character which render her very efficient and successful.

The WINTER TERM of twelve weeks, was taught by Miss Loraine Atwood of Palmer. Miss Atwood was faithful in her work and secured the good will of her pupils. At the closing examination, the school gave evidence of having made considerable progress.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Not having any schools.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

The SUMMER TERM of twelve weeks, was taught by Miss Ruth R. Cortis. Miss Cortis was faithful in her work and accomplished much. The school was small and irregular in attendance, in consequence of sickness and other causes; but those scholars who attended regular made commendable progress.

WINTER TERM of thirteen weeks was taught by Miss Louisa S. Cook. The teacher devoted herself to her task with the same energy and faithfulness as she did in No. 6.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

SUMMER TERM of eight weeks was taught by Miss Louisa S. Cook. This is the smallest district in town; whole number of scholars, ten. Miss Cook succeeded in keeping a good school.

WINTER TERM of eight weeks was taught by Marcia S. Burley. This was her first attempt to teach, and her success was excellent.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Miss Sarah Sedgwick of Belchertown, teacher. SUMMER TERM of thirteen weeks. This term was one of credit to teacher and scholars, and the Committee were well pleased with the appearance of the school.

WINTER TERM of twelve weeks, taught by Miss Anna L. Smith. This teacher possesses the qualities admirably adapted to infuse animation, to promote order, and in general to raise the school to a condition that might be pleasing to the Committee. At the examination it was evident that the scholars had made favorable improvement, perhaps not so much as they might had they been situated as favorably as many other schools are. It is very evident the school-house is the poorest in town, and the labor of the teacher is more arduous, owing to this state of facts. In this school most of the larger scholars were sent up to the High School, leaving mostly small scholars.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

SUMMER TERM, ten weeks, taught by Miss Sarah Sedgwick. The school made good progress under her instruction. Examination satisfactory.

WINTER TERM, twelve weeks, taught by Miss M. Minerva Hastings. Her school was well conducted, and the progress of the school satisfactory.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

First Department—SUMMER TERM taught by Miss Eva D. Bates, who succeeded in keeping a well-regulated school. The examination was good.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS taught by William A. Waterman, a graduate of the Westfield Normal School. He came with a good recommendation, and taught to the acceptance of the District. His method of teaching was excellent.

Second Department.—SUMMER TERM taught by Miss Fannie L. Collins. Her success was excellent.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS taught by the same teacher, whose success was marked by one of the best regulated schools in town—very gratifying to the Committee.

Third Department.—SUMMER TERM taught by Miss Juliett Barnes. Miss Barnes' success was excellent.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS by the same teacher, with like result.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

SUMMER TERM, Miss Jane F. Parsons, teacher. The scholars were very irregular in their attendance during the term. Whole number of pupils, forty-four, with an average of thirty. The teacher endeavored to perform her duties faithfully, and to urge the necessity of being regular in school, and in season; but many of the scholars were small, with no employment but play, and therefore knew not when school hours commenced.

We would suggest that the district place a bell on their school-house, to be rung at school-hours, and thus remedy much of the defect of tardiness. In fact, so good a house and the advantages gained from it, requires this improvement. Notwithstanding these difficulties, many of the scholars made good improvement in their studies.

FALL TERM, Miss A. Louise Smith, teacher. The whole number of scholars in this school was forty-nine, with an average of twenty-nine. Many of the scholars were small, and strangers to the school-room, or any kind of government, and Miss Smith, being young and inexperienced in teaching, made the school-room appear anything but pleasing for several days. But we soon found the school improving under her charge, and the closing examination was very satisfactory. Miss Smith has the elements for teaching, and we predict her future success.

WINTER TERM, Miss Sarah Sedgwick, Teacher. We have often complimented Miss S. as being one of our

best teachers, especially in this district. The committee were pleased to see the novel ways adopted by her in punishing the small children with such good success; the rod is only kept in reserve for extreme cases. Whole number of scholars, sixty-five, very irregular in attendance; but the school appeared well, and many of the scholars made good improvement.

Some of our schools give an average attendance of ninety-two per cent., while others are less than sixty-five. Would it not be better policy to divide the money on the attendance of scholars, rather than on those that do not avail themselves of their privileges?

GRADED SCHOOL IN DISTRICT NO. 3.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS of eleven weeks each, taught by Mr. George Mason, a graduate of the Vermont University. Mr. Mason's success was not equal to the expectations of the Committee, although he labored hard to succeed and overcome the insubordination of his pupils, and the ill accommodations of his school-room. The Committee very much approve his manner of imparting instruction, and think if his efforts had been sustained by the parents, and had a better school-room to teach in, his success might have been highly successful.

HIGH SCHOOL—DISTRICT NO. 13.

The Town Committee employed the services of E. S. Snow, a graduate of Middletown College, for the two terms in this district, a place designated by vote of the town. This village being so remote from the center of the town, it was impossible for a sufficient number of scholars of requisite qualifications, to attend, to fill the school; therefore we considered it better to do as on former occasions—to add to the number many that were below the standard adopted by the School Committee.

The Fall Term was attended by twenty-four scholars, with an average attendance of twenty-one; *Winter Term*, whole number twenty-five, with an average of twenty-three. There is no school in town that has come up to this in a regular attendance, and probably none that has made more improvement in the branches pursued. Mr. Snow is a good disciplinarian, and his method of conducting his recitations is such as to gain the attention of the whole class. The closing examination was the occasion of a good gathering of parents and friends, who decided the school to be a successful one—to which the teacher replied, that he attributed much of his success to the coöperation of the parents. Parents who are anxious for good schools, think of this.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

During the past year, the schools have given satisfactory evidence of gradual improvement in discipline, good order and success. Occasionally a mischievous boy or girl has rendered the labors of the teacher extremely vexatious and embarrassing, or a fond and meddlesome parent has paralyzed the labors of the teacher, and in a measure destroyed the unity and harmony of the school; but we are happy to say that they have not created any disturbance that the Committee have been called upon to interpose their authority in any case.

We have been pleased to witness the confidence, cordiality and mutual good feelings that have existed amongst the teachers and pupils, which have rendered our visits to the school-rooms pleasant and full of interest. The Committee return their thanks to the Prudential Committee of the several districts, who have given their influence and assistance to the Committee.

It has been customary for the Committee in their annual report, to recommend to the town for their consideration such modifications and improvements in the management of the interest of the schools as their observation and experience suggested to them, but in no case has the town (excepting in one,) given them the slightest notice. And in view of that fact, we shall not make any suggestions or recommendations in this report.

GEORGE W. RANDELL,	} <i>School Committee</i> <i>of</i> <i>Palmer.</i>
GAMALIEL COLLINS,	
E. B. GATES,	
WILSON BRAINARD,	
R. B. CASWELL.	

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS.

No. 1-High School.

PLACE.	TEACHER.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average No.
Palmer Depot, (Two terms.)	Geo. Mason, 1st Term,	\$45 45	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	51	39
	Geo. Mason, 2d "	45 45	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	45	34
Duckville, (Two terms.)	Edwin S. Snow, 1st "	45 45	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	24	21
	Edwin S. Snow, 2d "	45 45	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	25	23

No. 2-Summer Term.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average No.
1, Old Center,	Martha Sedgwick,	\$10 00	4	24	17
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Loraine Atwood,	20 00	3	35	28
2, " " 2d D.	Julia E. Randell,	20 00	3	65	46
3, Depot, 1st D.	Annie E. Heath,			40	32
3, " 2d D.	Nellie Smith,	22 00	3	48	39
3, " 3d D.	Miss E. Tupper,	21 00	3	44	38
4, Mason,	M. Minerva Hastings,	21 00	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	21
5, Foster,	Alvira R. Clark,	16 00	3	18	15
6, Burley,	Louisa S. Cook,	14 00	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	18
8, Shearer,	Ruth R. Cortis,	16 00	3	23	11
9, Gamwell,	Louisa S. Cook,	18 00	2	10	8
10, Bondville,	Sarah Sedgwick,	18 93	3	37	32
12, Thorndike, 1st D.	Eva D. Bates,	20 00	3	36	29
12, " 2d D.	Fannie L. Collins,	20 00	3	40	29
12, " 3d D.	Juliett Barnes,	20 00	3	61	44
13, Duckville,	Jane F. Parsons,	20 00	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	44	30

No. 3-Autumn Term.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average No.
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Loraine Atwood,	\$20 00	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	27
2, " " 2d D.	Julia E. Randell,	20 00	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	44
3, Depot, 1st D.	Nellie J. Smith,	22 00	2	59	45
3, " 2d D.	Miss E. Tupper,	22 00	2	57	40
11, Hastings,	Sarah Sedgwick,	18 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	13
12, Thorndike, 1st D.	W. A. Waterman,	30 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	33
12, " 2d D.	Fannie L. Collins,	20 00	3	43	31
12, " 3d D.	Juliett Barnes,	20 00	3	55	40
13, Duckville,	A. Louise Smith,	20 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	29

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS, (CONTINUED.)

No. 4—Winter Term.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average No.
1, Old Center,	John W. Graves,	\$30 00	3	30	27
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Alpheus Winter,	30 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	40
“ “ 2d D.	Julia E. Randell,	20 00	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	51
3, Depot, 1st D.	Mary E. Squier,	22 00	3	40	30
“ 2d D.	Jerane Fenton,	22 00	3	54	39
4, Mason,	Lucy A. Hastings,	20 00	3	31	23
5, Foster,	A. V. Hitchcock,	17 00	3	19	16
6, Burley,	Loraine Atwood,	18 00	3	27	24
8, Shearer,	Louisa Cook,	20 00	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	18
9, Gamwell,	Marcia L. Burley,	18 00	2	8	6
10, Bondville,	A. Louise Smith,	20 00	3	29	21
11, Hastings,	M. M. Hastings,	18 00	3	20	16
12, Thorndike, 1st D.	W. A. Waterman,	30 00	3	51	37
“ 2d D.	Fannie L. Collins,	22 00	3	33	25
“ 3d D.	Juliett Barnes,	22 00	3	46	33
13, Duckville,	Sarah Sedgwick,	24 00	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	65	50

NUMBER OF SCHOLARS, AND DIVISION OF THE SCHOOL MONEY FOR THE YEAR 1860--61.

School Districts.	No. of Scholars.	\$2,212 89 divided by the Assessors.	\$300 divided by the School Committee.	Total.	Amount to each scholar in the several Districts.
No. 1,	27	\$75 25	\$33 70	\$108 95	\$4 04
“ 2,	115	320 50		320 50	2 87
“ 3,	170	473 79		473 79	2 78
“ 4,	29	80 82	28 39	109 21	3 76
“ 5,	21	58 53	50 68	109 21	5 20
“ 6,	28	78 04	31 17	109 21	3 90
“ 8,	7	19 50	43 66	63 16	9 02
“ 9,	11	30 66	45 00	75 66	6 88
“ 10,	41	114 27		114 27	2 78
“ 11,	15	41 81	67 40	109 21	7 27
“ 12,	217	604 78		604 78	2 78
“ 13,	113	314 93		314 93	2 78
Total,	794	\$2,212 88	\$300 00	\$2,512 88	

24/4/20





